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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SECRETARY CHAPMAN ANNOUNCES 1952
WATERFOWL HUNTING RULES

Hunters of migratory waterfowl will benefit from improved conditions on the northern breeding grounds of wild ducks and geese to the extent of receiving 10 additional shooting days during the coming hunting season, according to an announcement made today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman. This liberalization will apply in all flyways.

Amended regulations for migratory waterfowl hunting during the 1952 season were approved by Secretary Chapman in accordance with a law of Congress making effective treaties relating to birds migrating between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. They were recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service following extensive biological investigations, and after consultations with the State game administrators.

Briefly stated by Albert M. Day, Service Director, these are the high lights of the new regulations:

Atlantic Flyway States will have 55-day open season or a split season of two periods of 22 days. Maine was the only State to select the split season.

Mississippi Flyway States will also have a 55-day open season. No State selected a split season.

Central Flyway States will have a 60-day straight season or two periods of 24 consecutive days. New Mexico was the only State to choose the split season.

Pacific Flyway States will have a 70-day straight season since no State elected to take a split season.

Bag and possession limits for ducks will remain the same as last year except in the Pacific Flyway where two widgeons or two pintails, or one of each, may be added to the regular bag and possession limit of six ducks. Widgeons and pintails, Mr. Day pointed out, are the ducks primarily responsible for certain agricultural crop depredations in that particular area.

Bag and possession limits for geese have been raised from 2 to 3 birds in the Atlantic Flyway; all other flyways have the same limits as last year. In the Pacific Flyway States, however, a separate bag limit has been provided for brant, allowing 3 daily or in possession.

The daily shooting hours for ducks, geese, brant and coot will be the same as last year—from one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset. On the

opening day of the season—including each first day of the split seasons—waterfowl and coot may not be hunted prior to 12 o'clock noon. In Wisconsin the opening day of the season for waterfowl and coot will start at 1:00 p.m. Shooting hours for woodcock will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except as noted for New York State.

A revision in this year's regulations permits the shooting of migratory game birds from a boat or other craft having a motor attached if "such craft is fastened within or tied immediately alongside of any type of stationary hunting blind."

The regulation which prohibits the use of automatic-loading or repeating shot-guns capable of holding more than three shells still continues in effect. An amendment which went into effect three years ago provides that the plug in such a shot-gun must be incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun.

To permit sportsmen to transport to their homes ducks and geese killed on the last day of the season at some distant point, shipments from Canada and Mexico can be made as late as 5 days following the close of the season in the province or State where taken. In the United States hunters can make interstate shipments up to 48 hours following the close of the shooting season in the State where taken.

The regulations permit the transportation out of and possession in another State during the period of the open season where killed, and for 90 days thereafter, of wild ducks and geese, which if dressed have the head, head plumage, and feet attached, taken in a flyway having a larger possession limit than in other flyways.

Any package in which such birds (or parts thereof) are transported must have the name and address of the shipper and of the consignee, together with an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of birds contained in the package, clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside.

The post-season period for possession of migratory game birds remains the same as in previous years—90 days.

For ease of reference, the open seasons, bag and possession limits prescribed by the new regulations are presented in tabular form by flyways in the attached tables.

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(5) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES

Migratory waterfowl and
coot

Woodcock

Ducks	Geese (except snow geese)	Coot
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4 (1)	3 (2)	10	4
8 (1)	3 (2)	10	8

Daily bag limits

Possession limits

Seasons in: (3)

Connecticut (4)

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Maine (4)

Maryland

Massachusetts (4) (5)

New Hampshire (4)

New Jersey

New York (4)

North Carolina

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island (4)

South Carolina

Vermont

Virginia

West Virginia

Puerto Rico

District of Columbia (7)

Oct. 18-Nov. 17

Nov. 15-Dec. 14

Dec. 23-Jan. 21

Oct. 1-Oct. 31

Nov. 15-Dec. 14

Oct. 20-Nov. 20

Oct. 1-Oct. 31

Oct. 18-Nov. 17

See footnote 6

Dec. 12-Jan. 11

Oct. 15-Nov. 14

Nov. 1-Dec. 1

Dec. 12-Jan. 11

Oct. 1-Oct. 31

Nov. 20-Dec. 19

Oct. 18-Nov. 17

(5) ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (1) Wood duck: No open season in West Virginia. In other States, bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted mergansers 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no possession limit after opening day of the season.
- (2) Not more than 3 Canada geese or its subspecies, or 3 white-fronted geese, or a mixed bag to include not more than 3 in the aggregate of these species, and in addition 3 blue geese a day or in possession.
- (3) Brant: In Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey Nov. 7-Nov. 21; Delaware Oct. 31-Nov. 14; Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia Nov. 17-Dec. 1; Maine Oct. 1-Oct. 15; New Hampshire Oct. 10-Oct. 24; New York Oct. 25-Nov. 8; Pennsylvania Oct. 20-Nov. 3; Rhode Island Nov. 12-Nov. 26; Vermont Oct. 7-Oct. 21; and West Virginia Nov. 3-Nov. 17, all dates inclusive. Daily bag and possession limit 3. No open season in Florida.
- (4) Scoter, elder and old-squaw ducks may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York from Sept. 28-Dec. 31, inclusive, in Connecticut from Oct. 17-Dec. 31, inclusive, and in Rhode Island from Sept. 28-Jan. 5, inclusive. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines such birds may be taken during the open seasons for other ducks. In these States only, the daily bag limit is 7 scoter, elder or old-squaw ducks singly or in the aggregate, and not exceeding 14 in possession singly or in the aggregate.
- (5) Only Canada geese or its subspecies may be taken in Massachusetts.
- (6) New York: East and north of Oswego River from Lake Ontario to its junction with the Oneida River, Oneida River to Oneida Lake, north shore of Oneida Lake to Barge Canal, Barge Canal to Rome, the main line of New York Central R. R. from Rome to Albany, and main line of Boston & Albany R. R. from Albany to Massachusetts State line, Oct. 10-Nov. 4, inclusive; west and south of the above described boundary (except Long Island) Oct. 20-Nov. 14, inclusive; that part of New York known as Long Island, Oct. 23-Nov. 17, inclusive, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on the opening day, and thereafter from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. in each of these zones.
- (7) No open season in District of Columbia but migratory game birds may be possessed therein in accordance with § 6.6(c).

(6) MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES

Migratory waterfowl and coot			Woodcock
Ducks	Geese	Coot	
4 (1)	5 (2)	10	4
8 (1)	5 (2)	10	8

Daily bag limits

Possession limits

Seasons in:

Alabama	Nov. 17-Jan. 10	Dec. 1-Dec. 30
Arkansas	Nov. 17-Jan. 10	Dec. 1-Dec. 30
Illinois	Oct. 20-Dec. 13 (3)	-----
Indiana	Oct. 20-Dec. 13	Oct. 20-Nov. 18
Iowa	Oct. 8-Dec. 1	-----
Kentucky	Nov. 17-Jan. 10	-----
Louisiana	See footnote 4	Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Michigan	Oct. 1-Nov. 24	See footnote 5
Minnesota	Oct. 1-Nov. 24	Oct. 1-Oct. 30
Mississippi	See footnote 6	Dec. 10-Jan. 8
Missouri	Oct. 20-Dec. 13	Nov. 10-Dec. 9
Ohio	Oct. 13-Dec. 6 (7)	Oct. 8-Nov. 6
Tennessee	Nov. 17-Jan. 10	-----
Wisconsin (8)	Oct. 4-Nov. 27	Oct. 4-Nov. 2

(1) Bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted mergansers 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no possession limit after opening day of the season.

(6) MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (2) Including in such limit not more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.
- (3) No open season for geese in that part of Alexander County, Ill., established as closed area by proclamation 2748 of Oct. 1, 1947 (12 F. R. 6521).
- (4) Louisiana: Excluding lands and waters of the State of Louisiana lying easterly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana and latitude 31° North, but including any lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the aforesaid center line, Nov. 5-Dec. 29.
- (5) Michigan: Woodcock in Zones 1 and 2 as defined by State law or orders or regulations of the Michigan Department of Conservation, Oct. 1-Oct. 31, and in Zone 3, Oct. 20-Nov. 7.
- (6) Mississippi: Excluding lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana and latitude 31° North, but including any lands and waters of the State of Louisiana lying easterly of the aforesaid center line, Nov. 17-Jan. 10.
- (7) Ducks, geese, coot on Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County, Ohio, and one-quarter mile distant in any direction from said reservoir, Oct. 20-Dec. 13.
- (8) Wisconsin: On the first day of the season waterfowl, coot and woodcock hunting may not start before 1 p.m.

(7) CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

	Migratory waterfowl and coot		
	Ducks	Geese	Coot
Daily bag limits	5 (1)	5 (2) (3)	10
Possession limits	10 (1)	5 (2) (3)	10

Seasons in:

Colorado
 Kansas
 Montana
 Nebraska
 New Mexico (4)
 North Dakota
 Oklahoma (5)
 South Dakota
 Texas (5)(6)
 Wyoming

Oct. 20-Dec. 18 (3)
 Oct. 12-Dec. 10
 Oct. 10-Dec. 8 (3)
 Oct. 11-Dec. 9
 Oct. 14-Nov. 6 and
 Dec. 18-Jan. 10
 Oct. 1-Nov. 29
 Oct. 18-Dec. 16
 Oct. 3-Dec. 1
 Oct. 31-Dec. 29
 Oct. 17-Dec. 15 (3)

- (1) Wood duck: No open season in Colorado, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. In other States, bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted mergansers 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no possession limit after opening day of the season.
- (2) Including in such limit not more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.
- (3) No open season on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana, or in Colorado and Wyoming. No open season in Colorado on blue geese.
- (4) The bag and possession limit on geese in New Mexico is 3 which may include not more than 2 Canada geese or its subspecies, or 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 snow goose.
- (5) Woodcock: Oklahoma, Dec. 1-Dec. 30; Texas, in the counties of Shelby, Macogdoches, Angelina, Trinity, San Jacinto, Liberty, Chambers, and all counties south and east thereof, Dec. 23-Jan. 21; no open season in rest of Texas. Daily limit 4, possession limit 8.
- (6) Texas: Black-bellied tree duck, no open season.

(8) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

Migratory waterfowl and coot

Ducks	Geese (except Ross's goose)	Brant	Coot
6 (1)	6 (2)	3 (3)	15
6 (1)	6 (2)	3 (3)	15

Daily bag limits

Possession limits

Seasons in:

Arizona
California
Idaho
Nevada
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Alaska (5)

Oct. 24-Jan. 1
Oct. 24-Jan. 1
Oct. 11-Dec. 19 (4)
Oct. 17-Dec. 25
Oct. 24-Jan. 1
Oct. 17-Dec. 25
Oct. 17-Dec. 25

- (1) In addition 2 widgeons or 2 pintails or 1 of each a day or in possession. Wood duck: No open season in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. In other Pacific Flyway States, bag or possession limit may include 1 wood duck only. Daily bag for American and red-breasted mergansers, 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no possession limit after opening day of the season.
- (2) Including in such limit not more than 2 birds of the dark species, as follows: the common Canada and subspecies, white-fronted, Tule, blue, and Emperor geese.
- (3) Brant, daily bag and possession limit 3.
- (4) Idaho: Snow geese, no open season. No open season on geese of any species in the following described area in Canyon County: Beginning at the junction of U. S. Highway 30 and State Highway 45, in the city of Nampa, thence westerly along U. S. Highway 30 to its junction with State Highway 20, thence westerly along State Highway 20 to its junction with the Lake Lowell-Marsing road, thence southerly along the Lake Lowell-Marsing road to the south end of the west embankment

(8) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

of Lake Lowell, thence along the oil surfaced road bearing easterly to its junction with State Highway 45, thence northerly along State Highway 45 to its junction with U. S. Highway 30, the point of beginning.

(5) See footnote 5 under schedule (4) Pacific Flyway States.